

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson,

The fast approaching local elections in Cambodia on June 4 will be critical to the future of democracy in Cambodia, an important member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the birthplace of hundreds of thousands of American citizens. As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Cambodia Caucus and Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, we call on the State Department and United States Embassy in Phnom Penh to publically express support for the rule of law and call on the government to respect the right of every Cambodian citizen to vote in advance of the election.

These will be the first elections held since the disputed 2013 national election that resulted in the ruling party narrowly maintaining its hold on power in the face of widespread reports of irregularities. Following the 2013 elections, the leaders of the main opposition party, Sam Rainsy and Kem Sokha, have faced politically-motivated criminal investigations and charges. The recent passage of a new law affecting political parties resulted in the ouster of Sam Rainsy as party leader. This law and other legal actions taken by the ruling party also threatens the very existence of Kem Sokha's leadership of the opposition party and places the future of the party at the whims of the Cambodian government.

We are deeply disturbed by reports of Prime Minister Hun Sen inciting violence and using scare tactics to intimidate voters—including making threats of civil war should his party lose elections. A statement from the United States Government would send an important and necessary signal to the Cambodian government that it must respect the rights of the Cambodian people.

We thank you for your attention to this critical issue and look forward to working with you to promote democracy and free and fair elections in Cambodia.

Sincerely,



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



Edward R. Royce  
Member of Congress